



Department for Children and Families
Family Services Division
Osgood 2
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2401

Agency of Human Services

(phone) 802-241-2953
(fax) 802-241-1219

CHILDREN AND FAMILY COUNCIL FOR PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Children's Trust Fund Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention

March 3, 2010

Senator Patrick Leahy

IN RE: S.678 Reauthorization of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act

Dear Senator Leahy,

On behalf of the Children and Family Council (CFC), the VT state advisory group under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), we write to thank you again, for your introduction of S.678 and for your long-time active support of the JJDP and the important protections it defines for children involved in the justice system. Your leadership in sponsoring this bill and keeping it forefront among the myriad duties of your office and the Senate is deeply appreciated by the VT advisory group, national juvenile justice networks, youth, and families.

We also wish to thank your knowledgeable and dedicated staff for their work on the JJDP, and for their accessibility and persistence in helping to craft a bipartisan bill with strong protections for youth. We are especially appreciative of the modifications in the Act that would keep status offenders out of detention, keep youth out of adult correctional facilities pre-sentence, strengthen the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) core protection, improve conditions of confinement in juvenile facilities, and promote comprehensive services and support for youth.

With respect for the many weighty matters before the Senate now, we write to express our hope that S.678 may be brought to the floor as soon as possible during this session. Thank you again for your steadfast leadership and commitment to juvenile justice and prevention issues.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Craig Pinkham".

Kreig Pinkham, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ken Schatz".

Ken Schatz, Member

c: Steve Dale, DCF Commissioner
 Noah Bookbinder
 Zulima Espinel